

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

FEBRUARY 5, 1863.

Read twice and referred to the Committee on Military Affairs and the Militia.

AN ACT

In relation to military hospitals, and to organize an ambulance corps.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*
3 That from and after the passage of this act all military hospi-
4 tals, with their appurtenances and fixtures, except medicines,
5 hospital stores, instruments, bedding and books, all ambulances,
6 wagons for hospital supplies and for the transportation of the
7 sick and wounded, shall be constructed and provided by the
8 quartermaster's department, agreeably to the requisitions of,
9 and according to plans and patterns furnished by, the surgeon
10 general, and approved by the Secretary of War: *Provided,*
11 That in cases of emergency, hospitals, ambulances, and
12 wagons for hospital service, may be constructed or procured
13 by the surgeon general with the sanction of the Secretary of
14 War.

1 SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted,* That it shall be the

2 duty of the quartermaster's department to provide the neces-
3 sary horses, mules, harness, and forage to render the hospital
4 transport train efficient for field service, and to deliver the
5 same to the officers of the medical department, by whom the
6 trains will be organized, and they shall not be diverted from
7 the hospital service, or be subject to the orders of any other
8 department.

1 SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted,* That, in order to
2 provide more effectually for the care of the sick and wounded
3 of the army, a hospital corps shall be established and perma-
4 nently attached to the medical department, with the following
5 organization: one colonel, as commandant of the corps; one
6 first lieutenant to each company of one hundred enlisted men;
7 one sergeant to each twenty privates, and one corporal to
8 each ten privates, and as many privates as may be necessary,
9 not to exceed in gross the rate of two to each company in the
10 army. The commissioned officers of the hospital corps shall
11 be appointed by the President of the United States, by and
12 with the advice and consent of the Senate, and shall have the
13 rank, pay, and allowances of officers of like grades in the
14 infantry arm of the service. The non-commissioned officers
15 and privates shall be appointed and enlisted according to
16 existing laws, and shall be upon the same footing, as regards
17 pay and allowances, as the sergeants, corporals, and privates
18 of infantry, respectively.

1 SEC. 4. *And be it further enacted,* That the officers and
2 non-commissioned officers of the hospital corps shall perform
3 such duties, either in the field or in hospitals, as may be
4 required by regulations, and that the privates of the corps
5 shall act as drivers of ambulances, and of wagons for hospital
6 supplies, as litter-bearers, and as cooks and nurses, in all
7 military hospitals without extra pay being allowed.

1 SEC. 5. *And be it further enacted,* That whenever the
2 hospital corps is organized and on duty, the details of enlisted
3 men from regiments for the hospital service, now authorized
4 by regulations, shall cease ; and that in case of a reduction of
5 the army, the hospital corps shall be correspondingly reduced,
6 so as at no time to exceed the proportion of two privates to
7 each company actually in the army.

1 SEC. 6. *And be it further enacted,* That all acts or parts
2 of acts inconsistent with the provisions of this act be, and
3 the same are hereby, repealed.

Passed the House of Representatives February 4, 1863.

Attest:

EM. ETHERIDGE, *Clerk.*